Hub
Barton

September 10, 1968

General James M. Gavin
25 Acorn Park
Cambridge, Mass. 02140

Dear General Gavin:

Here is the raw, unedited manuscript of COUP D'ETAT. Normally, a writer's vanity encourages him not to want it seen until it is edited. However, the content impelled me to rush with it. It is this content I believe you should be familiar with. I have an even more chilling manuscript, but that deals with evidence the more unwilling mind can dismiss as technical. I think it is more than comprehensible without any background.

May I suggest, intending no disrespect, in answer to your letter of September 4, that no matter how man improves aspirin, it will remain ineffective against cancer?

In saying this, I do not downgrade your own writing, which I regard as exceedingly important and urgently in the national interest, as I regard everything in your recent public career. What you have done and are doing is vital to the country. More power to you, and no end to your determination and dedication!

I am saying that the assassinations, particularly that of President Kennedy and the official "investigation", are the basic issue today. Everything stems from this. As you realized in our interview, it was followed by immediate policy changes and the end to the changes he had begun. (I wish the need for the writing I am engaged upon did not preclude my now doing that book, already largely researched.)

In sending you this manuscript, the last spare copy I have (and I had to delay doing this until I could get it back), my motivating purpose is to inform you. Aside from its need of editing, it is not quite complete. I will be adding a few things to it, such as the names of the public officials who knew in advance of the King assassination, immediately before it was accomplished, more on the Secret Service, etc. I have already written an addition on the Commission's executive sessions, what has been destroyed, altered, suppressed and eliminated from them, and what they disclose. That is now half a book in length, too large to include in this book. I will have to make a separate study of it.

I will welcome any suggestions you would care to make, or any other help you might see fit to offer.

By now I believe you may be familiar with my earlier writing. In each case I had to be my own publisher, even in the single instance where it seems otherwise. Is this not, in itself, a sufficient commentary on the state - and safety - of our society? The most powerful of the series has been ready for the offset camera for 13 months. I have not been able to get it published. Commercial publishers pronounce it "fascinating",

"important", and many other flattering things, but will not touch the subject. Only that which duplicates my original work has been commercially publishable. No help has been available to me, and I have gone without income since the Presidential assassination and am now $35,000 in debt from this endeavor, hence cannot, now, finance another private printing. Not a single one of the literary personages I approached was willing even to provide a foreword, all pretending a knowledge of the material as extensive as mine was prerequisite, or that they were too busy with their own work. The truth is contrary. It is simply that they fear the subject, as commercial publishers do. Jim Garrison (and not at my request) offered an excellent foreword to OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS without reference to its content at all.

Not one of the foundations I approached could find a penny for help, not even those with the purpose of studying the democratic society. The coming election is another manifestation of whether or not we still have such a society.

On a different level, not one of the many friends of the murdered President, including those made famous by him, will interest himself in the slightest, save in defamation of those who want the truth established. Pierre Salinge is a fine example. He wrote a foreword for a sycophancy by Charles Roberts demanding those who think and write otherwise not be heard, an entirely new concept of our constitutional freedoms.

Relatively slight as is the cost of manufacturing a book by offset, it is not for that purpose or any other appeal for help that I address you, significant as even slight help can be to me. What I feel I must do I will, until I am foreclosed. My purpose is to inform you. I believe when you understand my work, your own will be benefited. I ask, in return, only that you make no public use of my materials.

I am aware that you are a very busy man. Yet I suggest that, if you could take time to look at some of my unpublished evidence not included in this manuscript, it will mean much to you and could mean much to the country. When you see some of the documents officials thought to have been destroyed in every copy (and I got some that were simply misfiled and could not be destroyed), I think it will put the assassination and what followed in an entirely different perspective, as it may your own writing.

In this book I have much less than I could include on what I term the framing of the late Robert Kennedy. Most of it is more appropriate to my unpublished POST-MORTEM, of which I have no spare copy, which deals with the autopsy and what relates to it. I have not been able to interest any "friend" of Robert Kennedy, either. While I have never asked any member of the Kennedy family for help of any kind, I find it incredible that no single friend of any member, no American interested in the honor of the country that is involved with that of any first family, will in any way concern himself.

At rush hour, we are only slightly more than an hour from Washington or Baltimore. I would like you to see evidence that would take more than an hour to show you. However, if you can spare as little as a half-hour to an hour on any trip to Washington, I will drive there and show you what you can assimilate, with no special background at all, in a half-hour to an hour that, I think, will put this subject in an even more frightening perspective for you.

Although I ask for no help, if you can direct me to any source of it, of any kind, I will appreciate it very much. There is no one else writing in the field doing any original work. There are a few very fine young scholars independently but very cooperatively engaged in the researches their educations and other needs allow. I do look forward to the day when there are those in this country who regard a Presidential assassination, its official "investigation" and its consequences, as worthy of more than this slight attention and of some slight support.

When you return the manuscript, please register or insure it for $100, the approximate cost of Xeroxing it if I have to get this done commercially. The kind of things Americans assume will never happen to their basic services, like mail, are usual with mine, particularly my unpublished manuscripts. Publications like Der Spiegel and The Times of London can confirm this to you. Mail interferences cost me publication of my first book in London and another in this country. My first two months of letters to my British agent, all properly addressed and sent by air, reached him in a single mail delivery, only four hours too late for them to have meant a contract. The one time my New York agent mailed one of my manuscripts to the London Times" Washington office, eight others he mailed at the same time disappeared with it, for more than a month. This is not paranoia, General; it is the sad state of our sick country. Incredible as this kind of thing seems, I have documentary and photographic proof of all of it.

I do thank you for your time and hope you agree that the knowledge of the content of this work can perhaps help you with your own.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg